Ray Rinaldi

Finds Primary Election Boring

Last Tuesday's primary election has to be the most boring I have ever seen, and according to some politicians who have been around a lot longer than I have, it was also the worst voter turnout they can remember.

It kind of goes hand-in-glove, doesn't it? Except for a few exceptions none of the candidates ran what you might call a spirited or exciting campaign. None of them addressed the issues, and we do have a few like unemployment, the dead economy, social security.

Everyone knew it was going to be a bad turnout, but I was still surprised at how many people stayed away from the polls. It was bad enough that the voters were uninterested, apparently the GOP and Demo parties in town were just as bored.

There was no Judge of Elections at either 2-2 (Columbia Hose Co.), or 5-2 (5 Orchard St.), and at the Columbia a problem with the machine made it impossible for anyone to vote until 10 a.m., three hours after the polls opened. The workers at the Columbia, Rita Holleran, Irene Jackson and Anna Sheare did a fine job despite the problems, holding a "curb-side" election and naming Mrs. Holleran Judge of Elections. It's unfortunate that only 39 voters turned out to keep the ladies busy. 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., when polls closed, is a long day.

Earl Bishop, who was a candidate for representative in the 115th district, didn't win but made a lot of friends in the Carbondale Area, pulling in 721 votes to 369 for incumbent Joseph Wargo, the eventual winner.

The vote in Carbondale on the county study commission was a resounding "no," 441 to 284, which was indicative of the vote on this question throughout the county. From all reports, however, the issue isn't dead as the majority commissioners Charles Luger and Robert Pettinato will continue to try to get their ideas, about consolidating the county, across to the voters.

AROUND TOWN

It appears as if the Columbia Hose Co. volunteers are going to go ahead and build the wall in the "recreation" room at Fire Headquarters. Given permission to go ahead by the City, the Volunteer Fire Co. has apparently contracted with the Norella Bros. Contracting Co. to have the wall built, which will effectively cut off the "recreation" room from the remainder of the building.

The thinking here is that although the building was constructed with monies from HUD, it was turned over to the city two years after the completed date of construction, and is now owned by the city to do with as they please. They plan to seal off what, in the original specifications was a "training room," and make it into a "recreation" room for the Columbia Hose Co. volunteers. Is the Columbia going to pay rent to the city? Are they going to install separate meters for PP&L (light & heat) and PG&W (water)?

The city has opened up a can of worms. Just what we need.

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The reorganization at the Carbondale News takes effect June 2nd, when David Baum, who had served as its managing editor is replaced by the co-owners of the News, Rosemary and Phil Heth. Dave, according to a release handed out by the News, has been laid-off due to economic reasons. Having become involved on several committees in Carbondale, Baum plans to stay in the city.

In last Sunday's column I mentioned that city administrator Pete Judge had walked up to the Carbondale News office shortly after Councilwoman Charlotte Moro had departed after registering a complaint. Pete stopped me on the street the next day and vigorously denied that he had set foot in the News' office, telling me, "I haven't been in the News' office since last October. I went up to the Times's office."

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The word around City Hall is that the three street department employees laid off over the winter will be back Monday . . . Patrolwoman Judy Depoti will be back to work Tuesday . . . The City will pay Al Horn his back wages on Thursday. Maybe on Friday they can start preparing the 1981 financial statement so that the city doesn't lose out on its liquid fuels allocations.

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Congratulations to Don and Steve Brownell who won the District II Doubles Tennis Championship, and to the entire Carbondale Area Tennis Team who copped the Northern Division Championship, finishing the season with a 9-1 record. The team is coached by Peg Munley.

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St. Joseph's Hospital has hired the services of paramedic Mike Straka to help man the Mobile II Unit. Mike is from the Williamsport Area and has rented an apartment in Carbondale.

AND FINALLY

I have a great deal of admiration and respect for the men and women who comprise our local veteran organizations, and I know why they wanted the cyclone fence around the monuments in Memorial Park, but I wish it had been more esthetically pleasing to the eye. The consensus in town is that it looks like a cemetery. Perhaps something can still be done to beautify the fence. Anyone have any ideas?